

A SYSTEM AND METHOD INCLUDING A MERGING DRIVER FOR  
ACCESSING MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10       A method enables access of a plurality of data  
sources by a single access operation where each data  
source in the plurality of data sources requires a  
different driver to access the data source so that there  
is a plurality of different drivers. The method includes  
15       using an application programming interface (API) for each  
driver in the plurality of different drivers. The API is  
substantially identical for each of the drivers in the  
plurality of different drivers. A merging driver  
receives the single access operation, and in response to  
20       the single access operation, the merging driver accesses  
the plurality of different drivers through the API.